

Persuasive Essays – Feedback

Points of Praise:

- Very well written introductions and conclusions!
 - Most people did the 2 paragraph introductions well
 - Excellent establishment of ethos
 - Great calls to action/broader concluding statements in conclusions
- Anticipation of counter arguments, and rebuttals offered
 - Used counter-arguments to help prove your point – didn't take away from arguments

Things to work on:

Grammar:

- Verb agreement
- Subject agreement – make sure I know who and what each sentence is about
 - Avoid “they” – don't be ambiguous
- Read essay aloud during proofread
 - Catch run-on sentences, verb and subject agreement
- Avoid passive voice – don't qualify your thesis
- Diction – choose the right word to say precisely what you want to say
 - Avoid the thesaurus
- Avoid wordiness – say what you mean, mean what you say
- Avoid redundancies – make your point, and move on

Essay Structure:

- Connect each point to your thesis at the end of each paragraph
- One paragraph = one idea

MLA Format:

- USE YOUR BLUE BOOK!
- MLA Formatting (headers, page numbers, spacing, margins, etc.)
- Works Cited list – separate page, alphabetical, header/page number, citations
- All works cited in your essay must appear on your Works Cited List
- When in doubt, cite

Sources:

- Too much research – 2-3 sources is enough for a 3-5 page paper
 - Use research to support your arguments – this isn't a research report
- Use reliable sources – avoid Wikipedia, blogs
 - Look for peer reviewed sources

Reflection Assignment:

- Read your essay over, read my comments throughout and on rubric, read this note
- 1 page, typed; 3 paragraphs:
 - 1 – What did you do well? What should you continue to do on future essays?
 - 2 – What do you need to work on and improve for your next essay?
 - 3 – How do you intend on making these changes? What techniques can you employ?
- Marking Scheme – 20 Marks:
 - 5 marks per paragraph – looking for honest reflections, supported by details, and concrete suggestions for improvement
 - 5 marks for style – spelling, grammar, typed, etc.
- Due at the start of class on Monday, March 25